

Memo

CITY OF
ASHLAND

Date: July 21, 2021
From: Scott Fleury PE, Public Works Director
To: Larry Cooper, Conservation and Climate Outreach Commissioner
RE: 2021 Water Supply Status Update 6-21-2021

This memo is meant to provide a brief update to the local and regional water supply for the summer 2021 season.

Current Status:

Reeder Reservoir completely filled on May 18th, 2021 and remained 100% full until the drawdown began on June 19th, 2021. The inflows from the East and West Forks of Ashland Creek have started to diminish in-line with the snow melt off, which has happened earlier this year due to the warmer temperatures and lack of spring rainfall.

Over the past two weeks the water treatment plant is averaging 4.09 million gallons a day (mgd) in production the inflows from the East and West Forks have dropped from 7 mgd to 5.54 mgd. The production values for June to date are about 0.5 mgd more when compared to 2020 numbers at the same point in time. Staff believes this due to the hotter than average temperatures to date along with a complete lack of spring rainfall creating very dry conditions both locally and regionally. The current National Oceanic and Atmospheric three (3) month outlook is predicting higher than average temperatures and average rainfall conditions for this region, see figures below.

Knowing current conditions and potential future conditions of temperature, rainfall and East and West Fork creek flows, staff expects the drawdown of Reeder Reservoir to outpace the theoretical drawdown curve this summer season. This will warrant the use of one of the City's supplemental sources of water to protect the Reeder supply until fall rainfall occurs and fire season ends.

The typical drought management strategy for the City is to utilize the Talent Irrigation District (TID) supplemental source to augment the Reeder source and then utilize the Talent-Ashland-Phoenix (TAP) source once TID is no longer available. The Talent Irrigation District is seeing the lowest reservoir levels ever due to persistent drought conditions over the past few years and irrigators will see a significant reduction in supplied water through the TID system. TID is currently shut down for a two week period and will assess whether to start the canal system back up or continue the shutdown (see press release notes below). Due to these historically low levels the TID supplemental source will not be available to the City for supplemental raw water and thus the fallback is to utilize the TAP system. The TAP system provides for up to 2.31 mgd to a total of 1,000 acre-feet (325,851,000 mg).

Staff expects to begin pumping TAP into the Ashland system sometime in July to supplement the Reeder source. This has a twofold benefit, first to supplement and protect the Reeder source, but also is important as part of the water right certification process for the 1000 acre-feet of stored water right in Lost Creek Reservoir.

The startup of the TAP system will also coincide with the understanding that regional chlorine supplies are returning back to normal (see note below on chlorine shortage). As always during the irrigation season the City will continue to promote water conservation and efficiency measures/programs and the focus is on “**using water wisely**”. Indoor and outdoor water audits are the primary mechanism for community members to gain a better understanding of their indoor and outdoor water usage habits and also learn ways to reduce consumption overall. To learn more about water conservation and efficiency programs visit:

<https://www.ashland.or.us/conserve> and <https://ashlandsaveswater.org/>

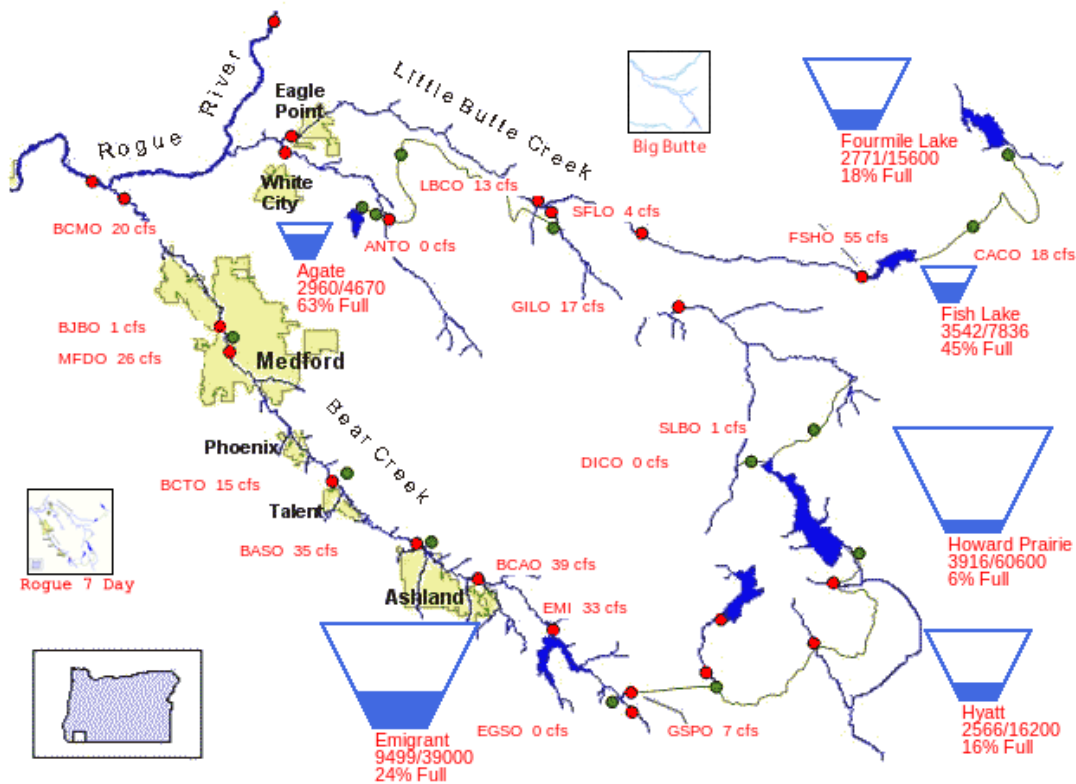
TID Press Release:

**PRESS RELEASE
JUNE 14, 2021**

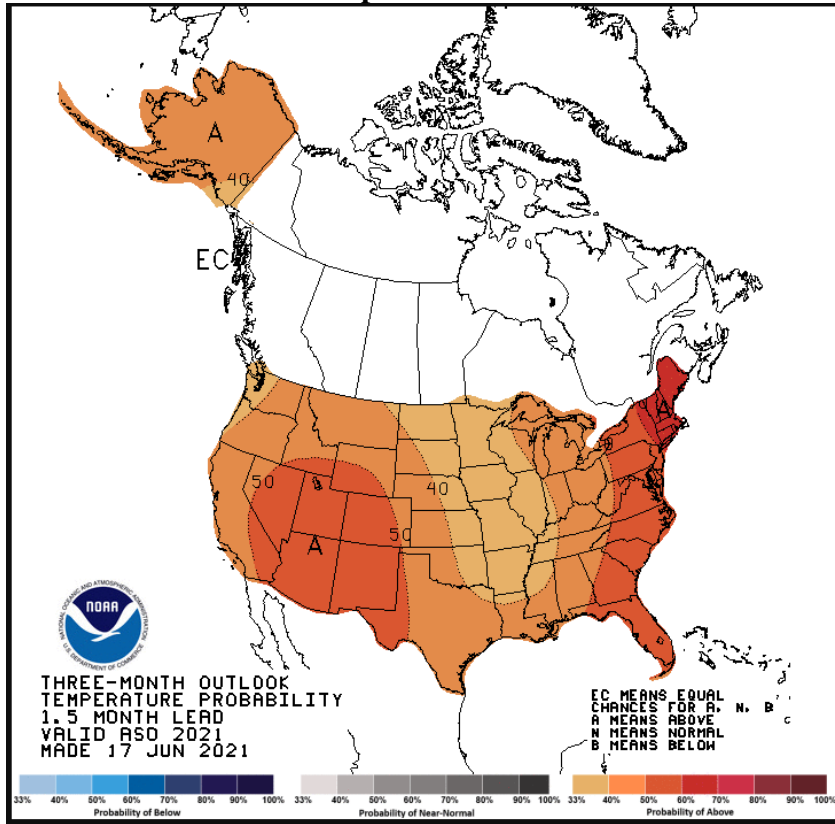
With the recent rains and the severe drought situation facing the Rogue Basin, Talent Irrigation District will be shutting the entire irrigation system down on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 for a period of at least two weeks. If we should receive additional precipitation, the shutdown period could be extended. This is being done to extend the extremely limited water supply.

Irrigation Reservoir Information: (Current status)

06/20/2021



NOAA Three Month Temperature Outlook



NOAA Three Month Percipitation Outlook

